

made separately from or together with the coating material removing step. Therefore, claim 5 is correct.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in combination with Kawagishi et al., Grosclaude et al. or Kanoh et al.

In view of the rejections, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the invention. Namely, a method for partially plating on a base of the invention comprises a coating process to coat a coating material on the base, a catalyst applying process to provide a plating catalyst on the base before or after the coating process, a processing step for processing on the base, and a coated material removing process.

Namely, in the coating process, a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer is only applied onto a predetermined coating area of the base by injection molding the coating material on the base. After some other processing, the coating material applied on the predetermined coating area of the base in the coating process is entirely removed by washing with liquid containing water.

Therefore, after the coating material is applied onto the base, the coating material is not cured or hardened in the invention. Further, the coating material in the form as applied on the base is removed by washing with liquid containing water after other processing. Since the solvent is not used in removing the coating material, a step can be simplified and a material for that purpose can be saved.

In the admitted prior art, it is stated that steps of roughening, masking by screen printing and so on, catalyst applying, plating and removing the mask and catalyst are known. Also, it is known that the insulating material such as plastic or rubber is applied by injection molding to a product after providing catalyst application on the product, and if necessary, the molded portion is removed.

In the coating process of the invention, the water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer is only applied onto a predetermined coating area of the base by injection molding the coating material on the base. The prior art does not disclose or

suggest the water soluble polymer or hydrolysable polymer of the invention as the material for the injection molding.

In the invention, after some other processing, the coating material applied on the predetermined coating area of the base in the coating process is entirely removed by washing with liquid containing water. The insulating material, such as plastic or rubber, is not removed by liquid containing water, and this removing process by water is not disclosed or suggested in the admitted prior art of the application.

In Kawagishi et al., a local electroless plating process for plastics includes coating a plastic product with a pasty masking composition formed of a polymer and at least one composition of a sulfur compound, nitrogen compound or silicon compound, roughening the surface of the plastic product, and applying a catalyst to the roughen surface, electrolessly plating the plastic product and removing the polymer coating from the nonplating surface. In removing the coating, the plastic product is immersed in ethanol, methanol, or a mixture of ethanol or methanol and ammonia water to remove the masking layer.

In the invention, a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer is only applied onto a predetermined coating area of the base by injection molding the coating material on the base. In Kawagishi et al., the masking composition is formed of a polymer and at least one composition of a sulfur compound, nitrogen compound or silicon compound. The masking composition in Kawagishi et al. is not the water soluble polymer or hydrolysable polymer as used in the invention. Also, the masking composition in Kawagishi et al. is not applied to the plastic product by injection molding, differ from the present invention.

In the invention, the coating material applied on the predetermined coating area of the base in the coating process is entirely removed by washing with liquid containing water. In Kawagishi et al., the masking composition is removed by liquid containing ethanol or methanol.

Therefore, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Kawagishi et al.

In Grosclaude et al., a masking formulation is a photoinitiated coating formulation comprised of an aliphatic monomer, a cyclic vinyl amide monomer and a water soluble resin, i.e. polymeric filler, and is used as a solder resist. The formulation is applied to a substrate, and after curing the formulation, molten solder is applied and allowed to harden, and the surface is washed with water to remove the deposit.

In the invention, a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer is only applied onto a predetermined coating area of the base by injection molding the coating material on the base. In Grosclaude et al., the masking formulation is the photoinitiated coating formulation, different from the invention.

Also, in the invention, the polymer is formed on the base by injection molding. In Grosclaude et al., the photoinitiated coating formulation is applied by coating, and is cured by light, not made by injection molding.

The features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Grosclaude et al.

In Kanoh et al., a hydrophilic activating catalytic solution is formed of lactate, palladium and alkaline medium. In the method, the activating catalytic solution is applied to a substrate to form a film, and the film is exposed to light to deposit palladium catalyst on the substrate. Then, the substrate is dipped in an electroless plating bath.

In the invention, the water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer is only applied onto a predetermined coating area of the base by injection molding the coating material on the base. In Kanoh et al., the catalytic solution is applied to form the film, which is then exposed to light to deposit palladium catalyst. Therefore, the water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer is not formed by injection molding. The material and the method of depositing the material of the invention are entirely different from those of Kanoh et al.

In the invention, after some other processing, the coating material applied on the predetermined coating area of the base in the coating process is entirely removed by washing with liquid containing water. In Kanoh et al., a part of the catalytic

solution is deposited by application of light and the remaining portion is removed by water. Therefore, the coating is not entirely washed, as disclosed in the invention.

The features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in Kanoh et al.

As explained above, the features of the invention are not disclosed or suggested in the cited references. Even if the cited references are combined, the present invention is not obvious from the cited references.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

A one month extension of time is hereby requested. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Respectfully Submitted,

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1. (amended) A method for partially plating on a base, [by the use of a plating catalyst] comprising:

a coating process to coat [a surface to be plated or not to be plated by means of] a coating material selected from the group consisting of a water soluble polymer [or] and hydrolyzable polymer only on a predetermined coating area of the base by injection molding the coating material on the base, [either before or after]

a catalyst applying process to [soak a container containing bases in a plating catalyst bath] provide a plating catalyst on the base before or after the coating process,

a processing step for processing on the base, and

a coated material removing process for entirely removing the coating material applied on the predetermined coating area of the base in the coating process by washing with liquid containing water.

2. (amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 1, in which the base is [an assembly of] cut to a number of [bases] base portions.

3. (twice amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 1, which comprises [in order]:

[(1)] a roughing process to rough [the] a base surface of the base,

[(2) a] said coating process to partially coat [the] a roughed surface with [a] the coating material [selected from a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer],

[(3) a] said catalyst applying process to apply [a] the plating catalyst on the surface except [an uncoated] a coated portion with the coating material as the processing step,

[(4) a] said coated material removing process, and

[(5)] a plating process to plate on [the] a catalyst applied surface.

4. (twice amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 1, which comprises [in order]:

[(1) a] said coating process to partially coat a [roughed] base surface with [a] said coating material [selected from a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer],

[(2)] a roughing process to rough the base surface except a coated portion with the coating material,

[(3) a] said catalyst applying process to apply [a] the plating catalyst on [the] a roughed surface as the processing step,

[(4) a] said coated material removing process, and

[(5)] a plating process to plate on [the] a catalyst applied surface formed in the catalyst applying process.

5. (twice amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 3, in which [a plating] said catalyst applying process and [a] said coating material removing process are conducted [at the same time] simultaneously.

6. (twice amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 1, which comprises in order:

- [(1)] a roughing process to rough [the] a base surface,
- [(2)] a] said catalyst applying process to apply [a] the plating catalyst on the surface,
- [(3)] a] said coating process to partially coat the surface with [a] said coating material [selected from a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer],
- [(4)] a plating process to plate on the surface except [an uncoated] a coated portion with the coating material as the processing step, and
- [(5)] a] said coated material removing process[, or] .

7. (twice amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 1, which comprises in order:

- [(1)] a roughing process to rough [the] a base surface,
- [(2)] a] said catalyst applying process to apply [a] the plating catalyst on the surface,
- [(3)] a plating process to plate on the surface with the plating catalyst,
- [(4)] a] said coating process to partially coat the surface with [a] said coating material [selected from a water soluble polymer or hydrolyzable polymer],
- [(5)] a removing process to remove a plated layer formed in the plating process except the coated portion as the processing step, and
- [(6)] a] said coated material removing process.

8. (twice amended) A method for partially plating on a base as claimed in claim 1, in which [a] said coating material is polylactate or a mixture or copolymer of polylactate as a main component with aliphatic polyester.